An Impartial DESCRIPTION OF SURINAM UPON The CONTINENT of GUIANA IN AMERICA.

With a Hiſtory of ſeveral ſtrange *Beaſts*, *Birds*, *Fiſhes*, *Serpents*, *Inſects*, and Cuſtoms of that Colony, *&c.*

Worthy the Peruſal of all, from the Experience of *George Warren* Gent.

London, Printed by *William Godbid* for *Nathaniel Brooke* at the *Angel* in *Greſham-Colledge*, in the ſecond yard from *Biſhopſgate-ſtreet*. 1667.

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With a History of several strange Beasts, Birds, Fishes, Serpents, Insects, and Customs of that Colony, &c.

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From Lyf-Gate-Street. 1667.

To the Reader.

THIS *is a preſent of three years Collection, not without many hazards to my ſelf: for the delights of Warm Countries are mingled with ſharp Sawces, and indeed from the Conſtant breathings through the Pores, more there than in Colder Regions, 'tis rationally believed, our Spirits muſt make haſt out of Bodies exhauſt by heat; but I have often ſeen many both Natives, and others at* Surinam, *very vigorous in extreme Old Age. In this Continent, the* Indians *will tell you of Mighty Princes upwards, and Golden Cities, how true I know not. But a brave Country it is, and it may be truly ſaid, to a Mind untaint with Ambition (and that can live according to Nature) no place is more accommodate; whether we regard health, a luxuriant Soyle, or kind Women. I have made it no deſign of mine either to hide the inconveniencies of the Country, or to extol the happineſs thereof beyond truth: Such as it is, is here expos'd.*

Some there are, who confidently believe, these warm Climates were the Dwellings of the Antient Learned Heathens: to which opinion, for the pleasure of the same places, I could assent, but that the most Acute Philosophers of old, held a gross Doctrine, that under, or neer the Line, 'twas not habitable, whereof dayly Experience affords a Confutation: and it's great ignorance to think any considerable Improvements can be made far distant from the Sun. What advantage hath Accrewed to the English *Scepter, How Navigation hath been increased by the only Trade of* Tobacco *and* Sugar *in our New Plantations, Who hath not heard? As for my self, I held it more Ingenuous to venture thy Censure for appearing in Print, than that you should lose the delight of these Observations.*

Farewell.

A Full and Impartial DESCRIPTION *of* SURINAM.

CHAP. I.

Of the River

WHICH is in Six, or Five and a half Degrees of Northerly Latitude, barr'd with Sand at the Entrance: but yet, Three Fathom deep at High-Water; and in Spring Tides more. 'Tis about a League over at the Mouth, of which breadth, or but very little narrower, it holds five Leagues, up to a small Village, call'd the *Fort*; and then, by degrees, in two Leagues farther, decreases a Mile, and so continues as far as hath been discover'd. It hath a Channel on either side, to the *East*, and *West*, but the first is reputed best, in which, Vessels of 300 Tons have sailed neer 20 Leagues up to the Metropolis or chief Town of the Colony, called *Toorarica*, consisting of about One hundred Dwelling Houses, and a Chappel. Before the Town is a very fair Bay or Harbour, large enough to contain an Hundred Sail of Ships. 'Tis on both sides Woody, unless here

and there a Plantation be open to it; and ſo perfect a *Meander*, that in a matter of fifteen Leagues ſailing, a Ship ſteers all points of the Compaſs. 'Tis well ſtor'd with good Fiſh of innumerable kinds, and others, though not ſo uſeful, yet for their Rarity very obſervable: as the *Sword-Fiſh*, ſo called from a Bone growing at his Snout, reſembling a Sword, or more properly a Rake, of which I have ſeen ſome above an Ell long. There is another, call'd the *Manatee*, who feeds upon Buſhes by the River ſide, gives ſuck like a *Cow*, and eats more like Fleſh than Fiſh: I'le but name a third, which, for the ſtrangeneſs of its Nature, deſerves a more particular Deſcription, 'Tis the *Torpedo* or *Num-Eele*, which, being alive, and touching any other Living Creature, ſtrikes ſuch a deadneſs into all the parts, as for a while renders them wholly uſeleſs, and inſenſible, which, is believ'd, has occaſioned the Drowning of ſeveral perſons who have been unhappily ſo taken, as they were Swiming in the River: It produces the like Effect if but touch'd with the end of a long Pole, or one man immediately laying hold of another ſo benumm'd: The Truth of this was experienced, One of them being taken and thrown upon the Bank, where a Dog ſpying it ſtir, catches it in his Mouth, and preſently falls down, which the Maſter obſerving, and going to pull him off becomes motionleſs himſelf; another ſtanding by, and endevouring to remove him, follows the ſame fortune; the *Eele* getting looſe they Return quickly to themſelves.

Plantations are ſetled Thirty Leagues up the River, higher than which, 'tis not probable, the Limits of that New Colony can extend, by reaſon of Cataracts or Falls

of

of Water, that descend from ledges of Rocks, from one side of the River to the other, rendring any passage by Water (the best means of Conveying necessaries) altogether impossible; nor is it only one, for which, in time, perhaps some Remedy might be invented, but they are observed to be within five or six Leagues one of another, for ought is known, up to the very head: There was once an occasion to go up those Falls in Chase of some *Indians*, who had been down, and kill'd an *English*-Woman, and robb'd the house wherein she was: This Expedition was undertaken by a good number of men well provided, who, after they had with most grievous labour hall'd their Boats by Land above seven or eight of those Falls, were at last, compell'd to return without desired Success, not having so much as seen an *Indian*, and adventuring as they came back to shoot those Precipices in their Boats, were some of them dash'd to pieces in the Descent, and the rest hardly escaped with their Lives: These Cataracts are in most of the Rivers upon the Coast, and are the only Let to the more perfect discovery of that rich Continent.

Chap. II.

Of the Climate and Country in General;

WHICH, from *November* till *July*, is but moderately hot, by reason of Clouds interpos'd, and excessive Rains cooling the Earth all that time, and the Constant North-East-Brizes, which no less Refrigerate the Aire:

The other five Months, when little Rain falls, and those friendly Clouds are wanting, the heat is something violent, occasioned no less by a Reflection from the earth, which is generally Sandy, than the nearness of the Sun it self, and would be hardly tolerable, were it not for the Brizes before-mentioned. Being no further from the Equinoctial Line, the dayes and nights are alwayes almost Equal, not differing above an hour, the Sun Rising and Setting never sooner or later, than half an hour before, or half an hour after Six. The constant warmness of the place makes it far more agreeable to Age, than Youth; The first it cherishes, and as it were, renews their years, making them sprightly and gallant, who were here crazy and impotent; the latter have less spirit, and decay more swiftly than in these Northern Countries, though *Surinam* be healthful enough to temperate sound bodies. The most common Diseases incident to it, are the *Feaver* and *Ague*, the *Yawes*, and the *Dropsie*, call'd there, the *Country Disease*: With the first, the People were not a little Afflicted at their first setling, I believe, occasion'd rather by bad Lodging, and worse Diet, than any natural Intemperature of the Climate. The *Yawes* is the same with, or but little differing from the *French-Pox*, 'tis too frequently Caught by Contion with *Indian-Women*, to whom 'tis no less natural than any other Malady, and which, by the Mediation of the *Spaniard*, is become no Stranger to almost every part of *Europe*; 'twill breed also there from any Sore, which if not carefully look'd after (such is the Malignity of the Country to things of that nature) Converts into that most loathsome and not easily cur'd mischief. The *Dropsie*, or *Country-Disease*, is, I think

think, acquired by that unwholsome flashy kind of nourishment, which, from the hardness of the place, and penury of Masters, poor Servants are forc'd to make a shift with, (for I never observed any but such have it) which, lighting upon dull inactive Spirits, drives them into a melancholy Carelessness of themselves, and for want of vigour and liveliness to expel those moist humours, which such tempers in that Country do abundantly Contract, they perish, being hardly recoverable unless taken at the very beginning of the Distemper.

The Land next the Rivers mouth, is low, woody, and full of *Swamps*: One, but about thirty Leagues up, high, and mountainous, having plain Fields of a vast Extent, here and there beautified with small Groves, like Islands in a Green Sea; amongst whose full flourishing Trees, 'tis incomparably pleasant to consider the delightful Handy-works of Nature, expres'd in the variety of those pretty Creatures, which, with Ridiculous Antick Gestures, disport themselves upon the Branches. There is a constant Spring and Fall, some leaves Dropping, and others succeeding in their Places: But the Trees are never quite divested of their Summer Livery; some, have always Blossoms, and the several degrees of Fruit at once: The Sense of Smelling may, at any time, enjoy a full delight amongst the Woods, which disperse their Aromatick Odours a good distance from the Land, to the no little Pleasure of the Sea-tired Passenger.

The various productions of Insects from the heat and moisture, is admirable in that Country. I have observ'd a white Speck, at first, no bigger than a Pins Head, upon a new-sprung soft Excrescency from the Root of a

Great Tree, which, by degrees in two or three dayes, has grown to a kind of *Butter-flye*, with fair painted black and Saffron-Coloured Wings. I have found others not quite perect sticking upon the Bodies of Trees, as it were incorporated into the Wood it self. There is another, called a *Cammel-Flye*, from its long neck, how Generated I know not, which has its Wings like small Leaves, and, having lived a while, at length lights upon the ground, takes Root, and is transformed into a Plant. This I relate, not from any certain Knowledge of my own, but I was encouraged to insert it, from the Information of the Honourable *William Byam*, Lord General of *Guiana*, and Governour of *Surinam*, who, I am sure is too much a Gentleman to be the Author of a Lye. Many more Observations of this Nature no doubt I might have made, if the vanity of my years would have suffered me to mind it.

The Government is Monarchical, an Imitation of ours, by a Governour, Council, and Assembly; the Laws of *England* are also theirs, to which are added some by Constitutions, no less obliging, proper to the Conveniencies of that Country.

CHAP. III.

Of the Provisions

WHICH are *Tawes*, *Plantons*, and *Cassader*, for Bread; The first is a Root, bearing a Bine not unlike to a Hop, 'tis Ripe in Eight Months, and being boyl'd or roasted

roasted is drie and crumbly; it has no bad taste, because it has none at all that ever I could find in't: The *Planton* is a Fruit of a Tree, but of Twelve Months growth; 'tis almost like a Bean-Cod, but bigger; they hang Forty or Fifty in a Bunch, of which, the Tree bears no more than One at a time, and being gather'd before quite ripe, are also either boyl'd or roasted, and in my opinion not much more excellent than the former. The last, which indeed may most properly be termed Bread, is also a Root, ordinarily almost as thick as a Man's Leg, but of various Forms; it bears a small Tree about Eight foot high, and becomes fit to draw in Twelve Months, when, 'tis Replanted with Sticks of its own laid in the Ground: The Root is taken, scrap'd, and then press'd from its Juice, which is rank Poyson, and, after, bak'd upon Stones in Round Cakes, half an Inch thick; when 'tis new made, 'tis pleasant enough, but by that time 'tis a day old, methinks there's little savour in't: Of this, the *Indians* make divers kinds of Inebriating Drinks, one whereof, call'd *Perrinoe*, is truly good, and neerly resembles our strongest *March*-Beer, which has been preserv'd to a Twelve-month staleness: But the relation of their manner of Brewing it, will, I believe, Rebate the edge of any one's desire here, which, perhaps, might be otherwise sharp enough to taste it; First, they take *Cassader*-Bread bak'd for that purpose very black, which the oldest Women, and snotty Nose Children chaw in their Mouths, and with as much Spittle as they can, throw into a Jar of Water, so letting it stand a while, then strain the Bread from it, and with some Chaw'd Potatoes set it a working, which becomes fit to drink in few days. The *English* Planters

Planters make their Cool Drink of the Juice of Sugar-Canes, and Water boyl'd together, a moſt pleaſant Liquor, and ſuppos'd wholſom.

Of Fleſh and Fiſh they receive Conſtant Supplies from *New-England*, *Virginia*, and other places, though the Woods and Rivers are not unfurniſh'd of ſufficient quantities, but the inceſſant Rains, and over-flowes of water hinder their being taken Conſiderably, ſave in the day time, when no body need Complain of Want that can but take a little pains to Catch it. The Fiſh may juſtly be reputed Comparable to ours, but, a not very Curious Palate may eaſily diſcern, how much better the Fleſh of *England* is, than the ſame kinds in thoſe hotter Countries, that breed there, being obſerv'd to be for the moſt part, flaſby and inſipid: Hogs only excepted, which are far better and ſweeter than amongſt us.

At one time of the year alſo are taken *Tortoiſes*, (not thoſe whoſe Shells are ſo highly valu'd here) upon the Sea-Coaſt, weighing two or three hundred pounds a piece. The Females are Accounted beſt, who have commonly a Peck of Eggs at once in their Bellies, each as big as a Hens, but hardly ſo good, which they come out of the Water to lay in the Sand, where they Cover and leave them to be hatch'd by the Sun's heat: The Fleſh of theſe Salted, I think, nothing but an invincible neceſſity can plead for; but freſh, 'tis Cryed up by ſome for a moſt excellent Diſh, though, for my part, I am prone to believe otherwiſe: The Taſte is not un-pleaſant, but it was alwayes moſt offenſive to my Stomach, which is none of the niceſt; and it cannot but yield a very groſs and ſlimy nouriſhment, becauſe of its ſudden aptneſs to Putrefaction,

ction, not being preſervable from Stinking, without Salt above two hours after 'tis killed. Sheep will by no means thrive there, being a Creature, I ſuppoſe, more appropriated to Cold and Dry, than Hot and Moiſt Countries. *Bervis* like the place well, eſpecially by the Sea-ſide, but the Stock is not yet grown numerous enough to find overmuch Employment for a Butcher. *Hogs* would increaſe infinitely, did not the *Bats* Retard it, by Biting off their Teats.

Chap. IV.

Of the Birds

WHICH generally both for Beauty and Goodneſs, may, I believe, Claim Priority from moſt in the World: But the *Philomela's* warbling Throat is wanting to all, in thoſe too ſavage Manſions for ſo ſweet a Gueſt. The Birds there, making no other Harmony, but in horror, one howling, another ſchreiching, a third, as 'twere, groaning and lamenting; all agreeing in their ill-Conſorted Voyces to Repreſent the diſmal Yellings of a Hell-bred Quire: But what is wanting in their Muſick (which Contributes nothing to real uſes) is more than Compenſated by their other Excellencies. *Ducks, Teal, Mallard, Plover, Snite, Pheaſant, Partridge,* &c. far bigger, and every whit as good as any here, are there frequent in all places. *Parrots* alſo are more Common than *Jack-Dawes* in *England*; And, upon the Sea-Coaſt, are a kind of Fowl (whoſe Name I don't remember) ſo tall, that at

a distance, they appear like Companies of men, upon the Sand, and coming neerer, their glittering feather'd Armors (of so pure a Scarlet as no Art can equal) almost dazzle the greedy Eyes of the Beholders. Exceeding these, for Beauty, (though of far different magnitude, being not bigger than some *Humble-Bee*) is a Bird in the Woods, which turning several wayes, presents as many of the most delightful Colours to the Eyes, and so lively, as can possibly be imagined: 'tis call'd a *Humming-Bird*, and like a *Bee*, gathers its nourishment from Flowers. There is another kind of Black Bird which hangs its Nest like a Pursnet, at the ends of Boughs, to secure it from the Roguish Monkies, who would be otherwise pulling it to pieces. A great deal might be spoken more Commendatory, at least more Curious, upon this Subject, by some body, whose Observations were intended, not, like mine, taken, as it were, by chance, and without a thought of rendring them more Publique, then by Cursory, and Verbal Repetitions to Familiars. I would have added something of the *Bat*, but it being disputable whether it belongs to Birds or Beasts, I refer it to my Description of things hurtful, being a place more proper for it than either of the former, with which, *Surinam* is so well and variously stored, that I think no place whatsoever, can, with more Reason, brag of its Excellency in this kind, and it is almost as easie to enumerate the Stars of Heaven as their several Species. But I'l tresspas no further upon the Reader's Patience than to give a short Description of such, as are accounted most remarkable, and which my Memory presents to me on a sudden: Those are *Deer*, *Hares*, *Conyes*, *Armadillaes*, *Hogs*, *Buffaloes*, *Ant-Bears*, *Tygers*,

Tygers, &c. The Inhabitants of the Trees are *Baboons*, *Quottoes*, *Monkeys*, *Marmazetts*, *Cuſharees*, *Sloths*, and many more, I have forgotten. The *Deer* are much like our ordinary ones in *England*. The *Hares* more reſemble a *Pig*, than any other Creature that I know, they are Brown, Smooth-haired, Spotted with white, and are far bigger than an *Engliſh*-Hare, which, beſide the mouth, they have no part like: They are excellent good meat, much better than any Four-footed Game in *England*. The *Conies* are red, not ſo good meat, and leſs than the *Hares*, but not differing in Shape. The *Armadillaes* are of two kinds, great, and little; of the greater, I ſaw one weighed Eighty Pounds. They are ſhort Legg'd, have three Clawes upon their feet, are Headed like a *Hog*, have no Teeth, and but very little Mouths, they are defended all over, ſave the Head and Belly, with an Armour as it were plated, ſcarce penetrable by a Launce, unleſs it happen in a Joint, they Burrow in the ground, and had they not quite ſo ſtrong a Smell of *Muſk*, would be no Contemptible meat. Of the *Hogs*, there are three kinds, one lives like an *Otter*, for the moſt part in the water, and is much commended, but it was never my luck to ſee any of that ſort. The other two are call'd the *Pakeera*, and *Pinko*; the firſt, has the Navel growing upon his Back, he is of a grey Colour, and about the bigneſs of an *Engliſh Shote* of ſix Months old, is indifferent good meat. The *Pinko* is neer as big, and every whit as good as ours. The *Buffaloe*, is reported to be as big as a *Bullock* of two years old, and almoſt as good meat, but I cannot give him a particular Deſcription, becauſe it was never my hap to ſee one all the while I continued there, they having

been rarely obſerved to come ſo low as where I dwelt in that Country. The *Ant-Bear*, is about the bigneſs of an ordinary *Hog*, of a black and grey Colour, having a Long-Bruſh-Tail like a *Fox*, or *Squirrel*, with which, he ſhelters his whole Body from the Rain, his Head is ſmall, his Snout about a foot long from his Eyes, he has no Teeth, and a Mouth not big enough to thruſt in two fingers, his Tongue is round, and ſmall, which he can put out a foot beyond his Mouth to lick in *Ants*, never feeding upon any thing elſe; he is very ſtrong, eſpecially in his Fore-parts, and has ſharp Clawes above an Inch and a half long, with which, he can ſtrike dangerouſly, but his Pace is ſlow, and therefore eaſily avoided; his fleſh is none of the Sweeteſt, but if well ſawc'd with hunger, it will down. Of the *Tygers* there are three kinds, Black, Spotted, and Red; The firſt is accounted fierceſt, but he very ſeldome appears amongſt the Dwellings. The Spotted, which I think are miſcall'd, being rather *Leopards*, than *Tygers*, do no little hurt to Plantations, by deſtroying the Cattle, and Poultry. They are of ſo vaſt a ſtrength, that one of them will make nothing to leap over a five or ſix foot Rail, with a *Hog* in his Mouth. There was once one came into a Plantation, kill'd a *Bull* of two years old, and dragged him above a quarter of a Mile into the Woods. Unleſs they be wounded, or very hungry, they will hardly aſſault a man in the day time. I never heard of above two or three they have killed one way or other, ſince the ſetling of the Colony: one of them (who was a Huntſman and a luſty Fellow) was often heard to wiſh he could meet with a *Tyger*, and made it a great Complaint in all his Searches through the Woods,

Woods; it was never his good fortune; at length, one night, lying in his Hamacko, in an open Houſe, a *Tyger* comes, takes him up, and carries him two miles into the Woods, in vain Crying for help, which was heard by an *Engliſh-woman* in a Cloſe Houſe hard by, who had ſo much Courage (more than is uſual in her Sexe) to fire a Muſquet from the Window; but thoſe who have had to do with them know, it is not noiſe only can ſcare a *Tyger* from his Prey: the Man was found next day with his Head and Shoulders eaten off; they are obſerved to be not ſo numerous now as formerly, partly retireing further into the Woods, and a great many having been taken by the Hunters. There is one *John Millar*, who has killed no fewer than a dozen or fourteen, ſingly with his Gun and Launce, from ſome miraculouſly eſcaping with his Life, and having been dangerouſly hurt by others. There are not many of the Red, and thoſe not ſo fierce as either of the former. In the Woods, are a great many Land Tortoiſe, but not ſo big by more than three quarters, as the Sea ones, their Shells are ſo hard, and ſtrong, that a Laden Cart may go over and not cruſh them, in which being otherwiſe defenceleſs, they ſecure themſelves from any Enemies, but *Men* and *Tygers*: The firſt, breaking up their Lodgings with an Axe; the other, with his Teeth: They'l eat almoſt any thing, and are by the Planters preſerv'd in Pens a great many together, to make uſe of when they pleaſe, being reputed none of the Courſeſt diſhes there. There are alſo *Porcupines* ſhap'd almoſt like our *Engliſh Hedg-hogs*, but larger, and Arm'd all over with Black and White Quills about two handfuls long, and ſharp as Needles, which Nature has taught them too ſhoot from their ſides,

with admirable Dexterity against a Coming Enemy.

Monkeys, and *Baboons*, are so familiarly known in *England*, they need not a particular Description here; though one thing of the *Baboons*, wherein, I think, they differ from all others, I cannot omit inserting, which is, that at certain hours both of the night and day, they send so horrid a Roreing from their hollow Throats, that, to those un-wonted to such noises, nothing can seem at first more strange, and terrible, being easily to be heard above two miles off. The *Marmazet* is a very pretty Creature of a greenish yellow Colour, and, though far less than a *Monkey*, is Commander of all those lofty Dwellers, riding them from Tree to Tree at his pleasure, they not being able to shake him off, and in stead of Spurs, to provoke their speed, he bites them by the Ears. The *Quotto* is black, something bigger than a *Monkey*, having a very long tail, with which he swings himself from Bough to Bough, his Face is Red, with hair hanging a little over his Forehead, and his Aspect is almost like an old *Indian*-Womans, his Cry is shrill, and very loud. The *Cusharee* is black, less than a *Marmazet*, and shap'd every way perfectly like a *Lyon*. The *Sloth* is a Creature so call'd from the dulness of his nature, somewhat bigger than a *Baboon*, and of various Colours, he is so stupid, that neither shouts nor blows will make him mend his pace considerably, which one may imagine is none of the swiftest, when if not disturb'd, he'l make it a days Jonrney in Climbing up a Tree, from whence, he rarely descends, till there is nothing left to feed upon, and then, mov'd more by necessity than Choice, he very gravely travels down that, and up another, where he sits Spending those Idle hours,

which

which are not many he can ſpare from eating, and ſleep, in whiſtling ſuch tunes as himſelf is too lazy (and, I believe, no body elſe would think good enough) to Daunce after.

This is but a taſt of what another (whoſe humours were not ſo volatile as mine) might frame into a Banquet: though I am perſwaded the moſt ſerious obſerver might Continue there, almoſt ſeven years together, and yet be alwayes finding ſome Creature or other he had not met withal before, and not much leſs worthy of his notice, than any I have named.

Chap. V.

Of the Fruits

WHich are *Oranges*, *Limmons*, *Limes*, *Pomcitrons*, both Water, and Musk-*Melons*, with ſome *Grapes*; all which are forc'd, not natural to the Country, though as good, and thrive as well there as in any other place. Thoſe originally found there, are *Plantons*, *Bonanoes*, *Semerrimars*, *Guavers*, *Pines*, and abundance of Wilde Traſh, which, perhaps if Tranſplanted, might prove not ſo Contemptible as they now are. The *Planton* I have already ſpoken of, from which the *Bonano* is little different, but rather the better of the two, though neither of them, in my opinion, very pleaſing. The *Semerrimarre* grows upon a pretty tall Tree, 'tis almoſt like a *Peach*, woolly on the outſide, and is not to be eaten till rotten, when, the taſt is not unlike to that of *Marmalade* of *Quince*. The

Guaver

Guavas is about the bigness of a *Medlar*, yellow, and full of Seeds, 'tis truly a most delicious fruit, and when quite ripe, tasts very like a *Strawberry*: it grows upon small Trees, commonly in Savanna's, or Pastures. The *Pine*, or rather the Prince of Fruits, is ordinarily eight or nine inches about, and a foot in length, the outside is green and chequer'd; and within yellow, juicy, and full of holes, like a Hony-Combe; on the Top it has a fair Coronet of Leaves, as 'were denoting its supremacy; nor do I think it a Usurper, being incomparably the best, and most beautiful that ever I saw or tasted: it grows upon a small Bush, about four foot high, the Stalk coming from the root like an *Artichoke*: the Crown being cut off and planted, bears again in ten months.

Chap. VI.

Of the Commodities

WHich are *Sugar*, *Speckle-wood*, *Cotton*, *Tobacco*, *Indico*, *Gums*, and *Dying-woods*: of *Sugar* very considerable quantities are made, & accounted generally better by Ten *per Cent.* than that of *Barbadoes*. *Speckle-wood* is also plentiful enough, and has been sold in *England* equal to the price of *Sugar*, but by its too great and frequent Importations, 'tis now become of less value. *Cotton* does not thrive so well there as in *Barbadoes*, and other Islands, by reason as 'tis supposed, of the excessive Rains, and too far distance from the Sea, from whence arises a brackish Dew, that keeps off *Caterpillars*, and other things offen-

sive

five to the Bushes. *Tobacco* thrives well, and is reputed much better than that of *Virginia*: for my part, I am no Smoaker, and therefore an incompetent Judge of either: I think there is not yet more made than what serves the occasions of the Colony; the People, Men, Women, and Children, being very much addicted to the Pipe. *Indico* has yet been but little experienced. *Rum* is a Spirit extracted from the Juice of *Sugar-Canes*, commonly, twice as strong as *Brandy*, call'd *Kill-Divel* in *New-England*, whither 'tis sold, at the rate of Twelve pounds of *Sugar per Gallon*. *Molasses* relates also to *Sugar*, being that which drops from it, while 'tis Cureing, and is the same commonly sold in *England* for *Treakle*. The Gums yet most familiarly known there, are *Montagne*, and *Gumma Semnia*, neither of which our Drugsters are unacquainted with; they are both easily procurable, and no doubt many more excellent, which time and experience will bring to light. There's also *Cassia Fistula* in abundance, and a kind of Balsam distilling from a Tree, accounted second to none for a Green Hurt. Nor are *Dying-Woods* wanting, but more minded by the *Dutch* than *English*.

CHAP. VII.

Of the Plantations,

WHich are in all about five hundred, whereof Forty or Fifty have *sugar-works*, yielding no small profit to the Owners, for a slight Disbursement, considering how brave a Revenue, if prudently manag'd, may be rais'd

from it in a few years: far larger (if no Contingency divert the ordinary Course of things) than is usually produc'd from a greater foundation, and more Continu'd Industry in *England*.

The Seasons for Felling down the Wood are between *April* and *August*, it being left upon the Ground to dryе till about the latter end of *September*, when, 'tis burnt, and the Soil enrich'd with its Ashes. *Indian*-Corn and Canes are planted upon the Lower-Grounds, *Yames* and other Provisions upon that which is higher. The Corn grows upon a Stalk like a *Reed*, commonly six or seven foot high, and two Ears upon a Stalk: The Grain is about the bigness of a *Pea*, which becomes ripe in four Months. They have two Crops in a year, and the Increase is at least five hundred for one. *Canes* become fit to break in Twelve Months when they are about six foot high, and as thick as a Man's Wrist: They bear a Top like a Flag, which being Cut off, and the Canes squeesed through a Mill, the Juice is boyl'd in Coppers to a competent thickness, and then pour'd into Wooden Pots made broad and square at the top, and taper'd to the compass of a Sixpence at the Bottome with a Hole thorough, which is stopp'd with a little stick, till the Sugar begins to be cold, and stiffen'd; when 'tis pull'd out, and by that Passage, the *Molasses* drains from it; and being Cur'd a while after this manner, is knock'd out into Hogsheads, and so shipp'd off.

W

CHAP.

Chap. VIII.

Of the Negroes or Slaves,

WHO are most brought out of *Guiny* in *Africa* to those parts, where they are sold like *Dogs*, and no better esteem'd but for their Work sake, which they perform all the Week with the severest usages for the slightest fault, till *Saturday* after noon, when, they are allowed to dress their own Gardens or Plantations, having nothing but what they can produce from thence to live upon; unless perhaps once or twice a year, their Masters vouchsafe them, as a great favour, a little rotten Salt-fish: Or if a *Cow* or *Horse* die of it self, they get Roast-meat: Their Lodging is a hard Board, and their black Skins their Covering. These wretched miseries not seldome drive them to desperate attempts for the Recovery of their Liberty, endevouring to escape, and, if like to be re-taken, sometimes lay violent hands upon themselves; or if the hope of Pardon bring them again alive into their Masters power, they'l manifest their fortitude, or rather obstinacy in suffering the most exquisite tortures can be inflicted upon them, for a terrour and example to others without shrinking. They are there a mixture of several Nations, which are always Clashing with one another, so that no Conspiracy can be hatching, but 'tis presently detected by some party amongst themselves disaffected to the Plot, because their Enemies have a share in't: They are naturally treacherous and bloody, and practice no Religion there,

though many of them are Circumcis'd: But they believe the Ancient *Pythagorean* Errour of the Soul's Transmigration out of one body into another; that when they dye, they shall return into their own Countries and be Regenerated, so live in the World by a Constant Revolution; which Conceit makes many of them over-fondly wooe their Deaths, not otherwise hoping to be freed from that indeed un-equall'd Slavery.

Chap. IX.

Of things there Venomous and Hurtful.

THE propagating heat (and paucity of Inhabitants in that Country to keep them under) has I suppose occasioned its Swarming with so many several kinds of Vermin, as render the Beings of Men in some measure dangerous, troublesome, and unpleasant: Those most familiarly taken notice of, are *Snakes*, *Crocodiles*, *Scorpions*, *Bats*, *Ants*, *Musketoes*, *Toads*, and *Frogs*; of *Snakes*, 'tis certain there has been some kill'd neer Thirty foot long, and of a greatness proportionable to their length: I know some people are so fooliſhly incredulous in things of this Nature, that they will believe nothing which cannot be visibly demonstrated within the Limits of their own Thresholds; therefore, for fear of being thought to use the Authority of a Traveller, I dare not repeat how huge a Morsel one of them will swallow at a time: But far less danger resides in one of those huge Creatures, then their presence may seem to threaten; for they are not at all venomous

nomous, and especially when full, very un-weildy: These belong properly to the Water, though sometimes they prey by Land: what ever they take is by Surprise, never by plain glideing; nor have I ever heard of any man yet, was so much a Fool, to be Cheated out of his Life by so evitable a mischief: But the lesser kinds which are too too numerous, are a great deal rather to be feared, being many of them so poysonous, as nothing can be more, as was once or twice wofully experienced, not only killing, but the Flesh in less than a dayes space, dropping by Peice-meal from the Bones of them who were bitten: Some are all over diversify'd with Beautiful and Lively Colours, under which Gallantry is generally observed to Lye hidden the most deadly poyson. Others are knotty, with Horns in their Tails, and Tusks two Inches long upon the upper Chap. *Crocodiles* there are too, but those neither very numerous nor large, they need not take up the room of a Description here, their Skins being so commonly to be seen in *England*, in almost every *Apothecaries* Shop. The *Scorpion* is black, and almost like a *Craw-fish*, he lurks for the most part amongst dry Wood or Corn, his Sting is in his Tail, with which, who ever is stricken, will be vex'd with most intolerable torture for some hours, but it reaches not the life: The ordinary Remedy to allay the fierceness of the misery, is taken from the thing it self being kill'd, and bruis'd upon the place. The *Eats* are found to be not a little noxious both to Men and Beasts, in the night drawing away their Blood, and so easily, that the loss is not perceivable, 'till it be past prevention, which (if I was not misinform'd) has forc'd several people to forsake their Dwellings, to save that little blood

they had, which would have been otherwiſe ſuck'd out. Some ſeem as big as *Pigeons* in their flight, and, as I have already mentioned, are the only Impediments to the *Engliſh* Hogs more numerous increaſe in that Country. The *Ants*, though but little Creatures, yet they are ſo many and hurtful, that than them, *Surinam* has ſcarce a greater trouble; very Sandy grounds have always the largeſt ſhare of their annoyance, which poor men, who have happen'd upon ſuch Soils, and have had no more Servants than themſelves, have found ſo conſtant and inſuperable, that in ſpight of all their endevours to deſtroy them, they have been compelled to deſert their Plantations, which otherwiſe they would have ruin'd, and ſettle in ſome better place. The *Muskeeta* is a kind of *Gnat*, in the night ſo reſtleſly vexatious, by Biting & Raiſing little Swelings in the fleſh in all the lower places of the Country, but chiefly by the Sea-ſide, where 'tis moſt over-flown Mariſh Lands, that Fiſher-men for Reſt-ſake, have been fain to Cover themſelves all over, ſave the Mouth and Eyes in the Sand. *Toads* and *Frogs*, the Scare-Crows of Women, like thoſe amongſt the *Egyptians*, are frequent in all places, as well of the Houſes, as in the Fields; and in an Evening after a Shower of Rain, their Noiſes are ſo loud, that a man can hardly hear himſelf ſpeak, and the Croakings of ſome of them are ſo horrid, that do but imagine the lateſt Grones of a Dying perſon, and you have it. Thus much is the worſt can be juſtly ſpoken of *Surinam*, though its Contrary Bleſſings and advantages are of far greater weight; nor are theſe miſchiefs ſo Conſiderable, but that Experience has taught infallible and abſolute Remedies for ſome, and ſafe evaſions may eaſily be found for others.

CHAP.

Chap. X.

Of the Indians

WHO are a People Cowardly and Treacherous, qualities inſeparable: there are ſeveral Nations which Trade and familiarly Converſe with the People of the Colony, but thoſe they live amongſt are the *Charibes*, or *Caniballs*, who are more numerous than any of the reſt, and are ſetled upon all the Iſlands, & in moſt of the Rivers, from the famous one of *Amazones*, to that of *Oronoque*: They go wholly naked, ſave a Flap for Modeſty, which the Women, after having had a Child or two, throw off. Their Skins are of an Orange Tawny Colour, and their Hair black, without Curles: A happy people as to this World, if they were ſenſible of their own hap: Nature with little toyl providing all things which may ſerve her own neceſſities. The Women are generally laſcivious, and ſome ſo truly handſom, as to Features and Proportion, that if the moſt Curious Symetrian had been there, he could not but ſubſcribe to my opinion: and their pretty Baſhfulneſs (eſpecially while Virgins) in the preſence of a Stranger, adds ſuch a Charming grace to their perfections (too nakedly expos'd to every wanton Eye) that who ever lives amongſt them had need be owner of no leſs than *Joſeph's* Continency, not at leaſt to Covet their embraces: They have been yet ſo unfortunately ignorant, not to enrich their amorous Careſſes with that innocent and warm delight of Kiſſing, but Converſing ſo frequently with

with Christians, and being naturally docile and ingenious, we have Reason to believe, they will in time be taught it. Their Houses for the night, are low thatch'd Cottages, with the Eves close to the ground; for the day, they have higher, and open on every side, to defend them from the violence of the Sun's Raies, yet letting in the grateful Coolness of the Air. Their Houshold Utensils are curiously painted Earthen Pots and Platters, and their Napery is the Leaves of Trees. Their Beds or Hamackoes (which are also used amongst the *English*) are made of *Cotton*, square like a Blanket, and so ordered with strings at each end, that being tyed a Convenient distance from one another, it opens the full breadth. For Bread and Drink, they plant Gardens of *Cassader*, and the Woods and Rivers are their constant Suppeditories of Flesh and Fish. For ornament they Colour themselves all over into neat works, with a red Paint called *Anotta*, which grows in Cods upon small Trees, and the Juice of certain Weeds; they bore holes also through their Noses, Lips, and Ears, whereat they hang glass Pendants, Peices of Brass, or any such like Bawbles their Service can procure from the *English*; they Load their Legs, Necks, and Arms too, with Beads, Shels of Fishes, & almost any trumpery they can get; they have no Law nor Government but Oeconomical, living like the Patriarchs of old, the whole Kindred in a Family, where the eldest Son always succeeds his Father as the greatest; yet they have some more than ordinary persons, who are their Captains, and lead them out to Wars, whose Courage they first prove, by sharply Whipping them with Rods, which if they endure bravely without Crying, or any considerable motion, they are acknowledg'd gallant fellows

and

and honour'd by the leſs liardy. Theſe Chiefs or Heads of Families, have commonly three or four Wives a piece, others but one, who may indeed more properly be term'd their Vaſſals than Companions, being no leſs ſubjected to their Husbands than the meaneſt Servants amongſt us are to their Maſters, the Men rarely oppreſs their Shoulders with a Burthen, the Women carry all, and are ſo very humble and obſervant in their Houſes, that at Meals, they alwayes wait upon their Husbands, and never eat till they have done; when a Woman is delivered of her firſt Child, ſhe preſently goes about her buſineſs as before, and the Husband fains himſelf diſtemper'd, and is hang'd up to the Ridge of the Houſe in his Homacko, where he continues certain dayes dieted with the Bread and Water of Affliction, then, being taken down, is ſtung with *Ants* (a puniſhment they uſually inflict upon their Women, Dogs, or Children, when they are fooliſh, for that's the term they uſually put upon any miſdemeanours) and a luſty drinking Bout is made at the Concluſion of the Ceremony. Their Language ſounds well in the expreſſion, but is not very eaſie to be learn'd, becauſe many ſingle Words admit of divers Senſes, to be diſtinguiſh'd only by the tone or alteration of the voice. When any Martial Expedition is reſolv'd upon, the General, or chief Captain, ſummons the Towns and Families to Aſſemble by a Stick with ſo many Notches in't, as he intends days before he ſets out, which when they have received, they cut out every day one, till all are gone, and by that only they know the expiration of the time, for their Numbers exceed not twenty, which they want Names for too, but expreſs them by their Fingers and Toes, which they will

 ſometimes

sometimes double, and treble, but their Arithmetick is quickly at a loss, and then they Cry out *Ounsa awara* that is, like the Hair of ones Head, innumerable. They go to Sea in *Canoa's* or Boats, bravely painted, made of one entire piece, being Trees cut hollow like a Trough, and some so large, that they'l carry five or six Tons of Goods at once. Their Arms are Bowes, with poysoned Arrowes, and short Clubs of Speckle-wood, some, for Defence, carry Shields made of light wood, handsomly painted and engraved. They observe no Order in their Fighting, nor, unless upon very great advantages, enterprize any thing but by night. The men they take Prisoners, they put to Death with the most barbarous Cruelties a Coward can invent for an Enemy in his power. VVomen and Children they preserve for Slaves, and sell them for Trifles to the *English*. They did once Cut off some *French* in *Surinam*, and made several Attempts upon the *English* at their first Setling, which were always frustrated, and they soundly smarted for their folly: now the Colony is grown potent they dare not but be humble. They are highly sensible of an Injury amongst themselves, and will, if possible have Revenge at one time or other, which they alwayes effect by treacherry, and dare never Assault a Man to his Face. They have no Religion amongst them that ever I could perceive, though they'l talk of a Captain of the Skies, but neither worship him nor any other. They have some knowledge of the Divel, whom they call *Tarakin*, and their Impostors, or, as they call them *Peeies*, make them believe they frequently Converse with him, whether they do so really or no, I know not, however, it serves to scare the rest, and

makes

makes think, Death, or any Misfortune proceeds immediately from him. They have also a glimpse of an after Life, in which shall be Rewards and Punishments for the good and bad, but are wiser than to pretend to any certain knowledge of what, or where. The belief of the *Peeies* familiarity with the Divel, and skill in Herbs, to which also they pretend, causes them to be employ'd by others as Physicians, though they need not be over fond of the Profession, for one of them being sent for to a Sick Person, and, that, notwithstanding his Charms and Fooleries the Patient dye, the surviving friends, if he be not the more wary, will give the poor Doctor Death also for his Fee. They burn the Dead Body, and with it, all the Goods he was Master of in the World, which are combustible, and what is not, (as Iron-work) they'l destroy by some other means, that no necessaries may be wanting in the other life: and, if he had any Slaves they are kill'd also, to attend him there. They solemnise the Funeral with a drunken Feast and confused Dancing (in which they are frequent and excessive) while some Woman of neerest kin to the deceased, sits by, and in a doleful howling tune, lamentably deplores the loss of her Relation.

Hast, and an unfaithful Memory, made me omit an Observation, in my opinion, very remarkable, and for which, I want a greater reason than my own, to give me satisfaction. I have said the Warmth and Moisture causes a constant Verdancy and Flourishing of Plants in *Surinam*, holding true not only in all Trees natural to that Country, but also in Transplanted Vines which bear there twice a year;

years yet this Exception I observed in an *European* Apple-Tree, which, notwithstanding the equality of Seasons, always shed its Leaves, and continu'd bare after the usual manner in its Native Soil all our Winter Months, and grew green again in Spring: But how it comes to pass, that the Heat and Moisture of that Climate should not Cause in that Tree an Assimilation with the rest (aswel those transplanted as natural to that Country, since they say the spirit of Nature is universally diffusive) I leave the *Virtuosi* to dispute.

FINIS.

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